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Professional Experiences:

Faculty, Doctoral Program for The Interdisciplinary Council for Developmental and Learning Disorders;

Training Faculty for the ICDL Institute;

Adjunct Professor, Department of education, Madonna University. Teach the Foundations of Autism course in the Master's Program

One of two people in Michigan who has certification in Developmentally-Based, Individual Difference, Relationship-Based Therapy (DIR)

Private Practice- Licensed Psychologist

Autism is not a single disorder. Like other biological disorders, autism involves a number of different brain systems. The fact that autism involves many brain systems results in comorbidities, i.e., more than one disorder present at the same time. For example, children on the autism spectrum often have severe emotional meltdowns. It is now known that in a large number of families with children on the autism spectrum there is a history of mood disorders. We now understand that mood disorders and autism spectrum disorders are often seen together. When we also treat the mood disorder component along with autism we are able to alleviate symptoms that we previously did not understand. Thus, if we narrow medical coverage to "only" autism we are likely to leave other components of the disorder untreated. One of the probable reasons for the difficulty in treating autism is that we approach it as if it was only a single disorder rather than a comorbid disorder that requires multi-disciplinary treatment.

If we understand autism as being a complex neurodevelopmental disorder then we understand that covering one treatment method does not make sense. Individual treatments focus on what we call "splinters" rather than treating the disorder holistically. We see children who make the greatest gains as those who are involved